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columna de piedra con una lápida ó inscripcion que recuerda algun suceso notable"; in Portuguese *padrão*, defined ('Dicc. Contemporaneo de Lingua Portuguesa') "monumento ordinariamente de pedra que os nossos descobridores levantavam nos logares que descobriam, como signal de dominio e posse." Moraes refers to the 'Lusiad,' v, 78 (Leipzig, 1873, p. 101):—

"Hum padrão nesta terra alevantámos." This seems to be our word; of its development we may be sure, for it runs parallel with the more familiar *patronus*—"patron." Here we should recall Jennings's happy guess ('Das deutsche Haus,' *Quellen u. Forschungen*, No. 47, Strassburg u. London, 1802, p. 171), that if *stapol* means "pillar," *patronus* may indicate that it was one of particular importance like the *fürstul* or "prince-pillar," of the 'Lex Bajuvariorum.'

Old Frisian, Icelandic, Danish afford us uses of our word with similar meanings. In the Low German, it means (1) stocks for ship-building, (2) a heap, or pile. From this came its use to denote commodities sold in bulk, a word which passed over into the French *estaple*, whence our similar word, found in the Edwardian Statute Staple, so-called, which ordained that foreigners might buy staples only in certain staple-towns. Arnold ('Beowulf,' 927 N.) speaks of *staples*, erections on which goods were displayed; I find no authority for this.

We have the word today in its original sense in *staple*, the fastening, post of a bed, small shaft of a coal-pit (Wright, 'Prov. Dict'); finally the four posts of a press are called the *staples*, and (a word I believe not included in the dictionaries) carpenters speak of the *staples*, or *staple-posts* of a fence.

So much seems certain,—for Sp. *padron*, Port. *padrão* the true etymon is supplied by Ælfric's gloss, and we may be reasonably sure that *stapol* means "pillar." But this need not commit us to Heyne's *central* pillar, and all he supports upon it,—square hall, wall of vertically planted tree trunks, stone foundation, and awkward and impossible internal arrangement. We know (Weinhold, 'Altnordisches Leben,' Berlin, 1856, p. 239) that in the Scandinavian hall the largest of the double row of

pillars came out above the house and was painted and carved.

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THE *ubi sunt* FORMULA.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—In the light of Professor Creiznach's study of the "Gaudeamus," and Dr. Bright's references in MOD. LANG. NOTES viii, 3, one would expect to find many examples of the *ubi sunt* formula in the Middle English lyrics. That such examples do occur in poems, antedating Villon and Ryman by two centuries, is easy to prove.

The formula appears in one of the most charming of early lyrics the "Luve-Ron" by Thomas de Hales ('Old Engl. Misc.,' x, l. 65, p. 95);

*Hwer is paris and heleyne.
pat weren so bryht and feyre on bleo.
Amadas. tristram. and dideyne.
yseude. and alle peo.
Ector wif his scharpe meyne.
and cesar riche of wordes feo.
Heo beop iglyden ut of þe reyne.
so þe schef[te] is of þe cleo."*

It is interesting to note that this song has been translated into German by ten Brink ('Gesch. der Eng. Lit.,' i., 261), and Englished by his translator, Kennedy (i, 208).

The formula is employed to strike the deepest note in the poem on Death, preserved to us in Cotton MS. Caligula, A. ix, and Jesus Coll. MS. 29 ('Old Engl. Misc.,' p. 168).

It is used with good effect in Harl. MS. 2253 (Böddeker, "Geistliche Lieder," xvii, 121 f., p. 229):

*wher beþ hue þat byforen vs were,
Lordes ledyes, pat haukes bere,
haden feld & wode?
þe ryche ladies in huere bour,
pat weren gold on huere tressour,
wiþ huere bryhte rode"?*

Böddeker proves (p. 460) that nine strophes in the Digby MS. 86, fol. 125, pointed out by Stengel ('Cod. MS. Digby 86,' p. 60), correspond in all essential particulars to the stanza cited and the six following, in the Harleian.

This is noteworthy as the Digby MS. strophes bear the superscription: "ubi sount qui ante nos fuerount"?

FREDERICK TUPPER, JR.

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TEAM.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—On page 122 of the present volume Prof. Macmechan mentions the use of "team" for "carriage" as current in Nova Scotia, observing that, apart from the instance he gives, he had never seen this use of the word in print before.

I think I have met with another example, and that in Spenser. In his 'Prothalamion,' l. 60-64. we find:

"Them seem'd they never saw a sight so fayre,
Of Fowles so louely, that they sure did deeme
Them heavenly borne, or to be that same payre
Which through the skie draw Venus silver Teeme."

S., however, generally uses it in the other sense; as, 'F. Q.,' Book i, iv, 36.

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PEDAGOGICAL SECTION

OF THE

Modern Language Association of America.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—The pedagogical section of the Modern Language Association will hold its session at the coming meeting of the Association in Washington, on the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 28. It is hoped that all the members of the association who are in attendance at the annual convention, will aid in the discussion to be opened before this Section. The general topic proposed for discussion is that represented by Prof. Viator's article in the November issue of *The Educational Review*, entitled, "A New Method of Language Teaching."

It is particularly desired to have discussed the phonetic basis and the inductive study of grammar, on the method outlined by Prof. Viator. Prof. A. Rambeau, of Johns Hopkins University, will open the discussion on the first of these special topics, with a paper on

"The Value of Phonetics In Modern Language Teaching (practical illustrations in regard to French)." Prof. Starr W. Cutting, of Chicago University, will open the discussion of the second special topic, with a paper affirming the proposition that "Elementary Grammar Study Should Be Inductive." All members of the association are cordially invited to take part in the discussion.

CHAS. HARRIS, *President.*

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BRIEF MENTION.

W. R. Jenkins (New York. Schoenhof: Boston) has secured the services of Dr. Woodward of Columbia College, in editing the novels which he publishes in his series of "Romans choisis." The first thus issued is George Sand's 'Nanon' (number 21 of the series). The text is preceded by a short introduction in English and is followed by abundant and competent notes, which, perhaps, do too much work for the reader if they err at all.

The same firm adds to its "Contes choisis" number 18, 'Près du bonheur' by Henri Ardel, a writer of whom we must confess our ignorance. The volume is annotated, with explanatory and grammatical notes, by E. Rigal.

From D. C. Heath & Co. (Boston, New York, Chicago, London) come a number of texts, many of them edited by English students. These include the episode of the 'Escape of the Duke of Beaufort' in Dumas' 'Vingt ans après,' with notes by D. B. Kitchin; an abridgment of Loti's 'Pêcheur d'Islande,' edited by R. J. Morich; Balzac's 'le Curé de Tours,' annotated by C. R. Carter; a selection from Erckmann-Chatrian's 'Histoire d'un paysan,' edited by W. S. Lyon; and Paul Gervais' 'Un cas de conscience,' with notes, vocabulary and appendices on irregular verbs and pronouns by R. P. Horsley. In addition to these contributions to available French Texts from across the water, are three selections from the same source intended for younger readers and published by the same house. Each of the three contains a vocabulary, and appendices on irregular verbs and